

GEN. PHILLIPS

## Pentagon Conceals Vital Data In Contrast to State Department

Defense Department Secrecy Often Has  
Nothing to Do With Security—Dulles  
Supplies Full Information.

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**I**N THE PENTAGON, the National Security Council and the Atomic Energy Commission, policies as fateful for the United States as a declaration of war are being adopted in secret in total negation of the principles of democracy. Generally secrecy about these policies has nothing to do with security.

The Constitution, with its few statements delimiting the powers of the President and Congress, as adapted to the simple times of 170 years ago, does not cover the areas which recently a portion of the executive department of the Government has been claiming as its private domain.

How can the people participate in the formation of such policies and have a chance to express their will concerning them?

The contrast between the information policies of the Defense and State departments sheds some light on what may be done.

If the Defense Department has the most confused as well as the most restrictive information policies of any major branch of the Government, as proclaimed by the special subcommittee on government information of the Government Operations Committee, the State Department, under Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has the most enlightened.

### Keeps People Informed.

Dulles has been criticized for talking too much, but his critics have overlooked, in their complaints, his tremendous and continuing effort to keep the American people fully informed of the vital national policies under consideration in the State Department.

Not only has Dulles, in his press conferences and public statements, in private briefings to the press and the Congress, provided a flow of information that all would have been buried under a shield of secrecy if it were in the Defense Department, but the entire department is organized to provide background information to legitimate press inquiries.

Whether because of Dulles's

own philosophy or because of his public affairs adviser, Assistant Secretary Carl W. Moore, Cardle, the State Department's information policy makes available to the public through the press information of State Department policies and decisions from their inception to their implementation.

### Conferences and Briefings.

Dulles, himself, holds press conferences more frequently than any other government official. These are informative and there is little of the fencing and evasion in them that is common with other departments.

In addition, Dulles has often the-record briefings with trustworthy reporters, both in the United States and on conferences abroad, to keep them current with what is being done and planned.

In the State Department itself, the press officers are mines of information. They also brief correspondents when important events are transpiring. Senior State Department officials hold background briefings frequently as well.

In each division of the State Department and in many of its subdivisions, a public affairs officer, who is usually an experienced Foreign Service Officer and an expert on his particular area, is freely available to a reporter searching for information.

By such means Dulles and

the State Department fill the void between the development of policies and the requirements of the public for information that affects them as never before in our history.

### Contrast in Pentagon.

In contrast, in the Defense Department there is a bottleneck to the flow of legitimate information created by Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson. He holds all the press conferences and fences with reporters to evade their questions. Information on the activities of the more than 3,000,000 persons in defense can only come through his Defense Department press section.

It was not always like this. In the last war Gen. George C. Marshall regularly briefed the press on the course of the war and the reasons for certain decisions. He was occasionally available to selected groups from the press and talked freely of his top secret plans for background use.

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, when he was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was regularly available to selected correspondents for off-the-record discussions and even asked the press for advice about policies on occasion. Even the tough old sea dog, the late Adm. Ernest King, met the press for background discussions, as did the late Adm. Forrest P. Sherman.

### Decisions Now Hidden.

In the previous Administration, the executive secretaries of the National Security Council often informed members of the press of policies and decisions that now are hidden.

Sir Anthony Eden must go before the House of Commons and explain publicly or privately, as the occasion requires, his policies and defend them. He has just gone through one such session on the Suez canal crisis.

The different organization of the Government of the United States makes it possible to hold information that would have to be made public in Great Britain.

Observers feel that our system can be filled only if the Administration has a democratic philosophy of information and deliberately makes public much of the vital information now being concealed under a fictitious cloak of secrecy.